

Friendship Livestock Houses
CH-9
Nanjemoy vic.
Public

Circa 1775

The Friendship Livestock Houses consist of two virtually identical 18th century, long, rectangular side-gable structures with heavy timber framing. Set at a ninety degree angle from one another, the structures are sited at the edge of a cleared field in the vicinity of Nanjemoy. Notable elements include massive hand-hewn principal posts, mortice and tenon joinery secured with wooden pegs, and a tilted false plate supporting the roof rafters. The buildings are both five bays in length, each measuring a total of approximately 50 feet under the eaves.

The Friendship Livestock Houses are significant both architecturally as examples of 18th century building traditions, and in their association with a little understood aspect of Charles County's early agricultural history. Originally part of "Friendship", a large tract purchased by Thomas Dent from Captain Guinther before 1676, during the 18th century a small dwelling and a number of barns stood nearby. According to documentary evidence, livestock was the primary agricultural export at "Friendship" during the 17th and 18th century. The property remained in the Dent family until the early 20th century,

Inventory No. CH-9

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic **Friendship Livestock Houses**

other

2. Location

street and number	North side Friendship Landing Road	not for publication
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city, town	Nanijemov	X	vicinity
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county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Charles County Commissioners

street and number	200 Baltimore Street	telephone	301-645-5550
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city, town	LaPlata	state	MD	zip code	20646
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4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 52-100

city, town	LaPlata	liber	2740	folio	361
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category		Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
					Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/>	district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		<input type="checkbox"/> objects
			<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>4</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
			<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
			<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	Number of Contributing Resources	
			<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	previously listed in the Inventory	
					2	

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-9

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Friendship Livestock Houses consist of two virtually identical 18th century long rectangular, side gable structures with heavy timber framing set at a ninety degree angle from one another at the corner of a cleared field in the vicinity of Nanjemoy. Notable elements include massive, hand hewn principal posts, mortise and tenon joinery secured with wooden pegs, and a tilted false plate supporting the roof rafters. The buildings are both five bays in length each measuring a total of approximately 50 feet under the eaves. Found at the end of Friendship Landing Road, the site is bordered by Nanjemoy Creek to the east. Once sharing the site were Old Friendship (CH-8) a mid-18th century dwelling, and a large 18th century granary (CH-202). Both have been dismantled and reconstructed at different sites within Charles County.

The barns are five bays in length and currently sheathed in vertical board siding attached with early cut nails. Portions of earlier wood shingles are visible under the existing metal seam roof. The building is currently earthfast with the sills resting directly on the ground. The rear and side elevations are without fenestration and access to the structure is solely through partially open bays fronting the cleared field. An old road, that according to oral tradition was once used for logging, runs adjacent to structure A in a northeasterly direction.

Structure A is in stable condition and more readily accessible for study. Generally this structure is a typical example of timber frame construction appearing to have been built wall by wall. The plate is mortised to receive the tenoned post and the joint is secured with a wooden pin. Diagonal upbraces add addition support to the walls. Attic joists, notched at each end are laid on top of the plate and secured with wooden pegs. Additionally the outside end of each attic joist is notched to receive a tilted false plate which rests on 45 degree angle. The false plate in turn holds the roof rafter which is also secured in place with a wooden pin. The northwestern wall appears to be largely intact. Conversely, less precise and less careful framing technique were used on the interiors posts nearest the cleared field, suggesting later alterations. Structure B includes similar construction. Vertical siding is attached with wire cut nails.

The structures are believed to have been built to provide moderate shelter for livestock, possibly cows or hogs. The barn was later used to hang tobacco as evidenced by the presence of log tier poles laid perpendicular to the joists.

DWELLING, SITE

Old Friendship, (CH-8) was moved in 1960 to the College of Southern Maryland campus. After the move it was restored and now includes an exterior easement. The original location of the dwelling is marked by an open rubble foundation which has not been filled.

BARN, SITE

A large barn (CH-202), originally thought to be a tobacco barn but now considered to be a granary was located northeast of the dwelling. It was dismantled and reconstructed at Ellerslie (CH-24NR)

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-9

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates c. 1775

Architect/Builder unknown

Construction dates c. 1775

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Friendship Livestock Houses are significant both architecturally as examples of 18th and early 19th century building traditions, and in their association with a little understood aspect of Charles County's early agricultural history. Originally part of "Friendship", a large tract purchased by Thomas Dent from Captain Guither before 1676, during the 18th century a small dwelling (CH-8) and a number of barns stood nearby. The Dent family retained ownership until 1816 when the property, encompassing 1,052 acres, was sold to Joseph Gray, Sr. and John Franklin Gray. After the Gray's purchase, the property was divided in two. Joseph assumed possession of the northern half which continued to be known as Friendship and John acquired the lower portion which he renamed Chinquapin. Joseph Gray owned a number of tracts in the neighborhood and resided at Mansion Hall CH-20(site) about one mile northwest of Durham Church. He died in 1820 and his property was divided equally between his sons Robert F. and Joseph, Jr. Robert received 227 acres on the north side of the road (Lot 5) while Joseph received 254 acres on the south side (Lot 6).

While little is known about the livestock market during the colonial period, animals including cattle, swine and sheep, seem to have been an important part of the farming operation at Friendship, and at times the principal use of the land. As early as 1676 the farm supported 41 head of cattle worth 14,450 pounds of tobacco and a parcel of hogs valued at 3,364 pounds. The 1782 and 1783 tax assessments for Charles County included a cow barn in the grouping of buildings as well as four tobacco houses, two corn houses, two milk houses, two kitchens and an old tub mill. At the time Warren Dent also owned 7 horses and 29 head of cattle. After passing to the Gray family in 1816, sheep, mules and oxen were added to the list of livestock on the property in addition to hogs and cattle. (1)

Although there are no documented examples of similar 18th century structures in Charles County, documentary evidence identifies some characteristics. In 1764, the Maryland Gazette mentions a farm in Charles County having a brick dairy, stable, corn house, tobacco and cow houses. In Sussex Co, Del, one cow house 11 x 40 was identified. In 1823 it was listed as in bad repair. In 1671, George Godfrey built for Daniel Johnson both of Charles County "one 60 foot tobaccoe house & one 10 foot hen house and hewed timbers for the frame of a forty foot hog house". (2)

(1) Rivoire, 1993.

(2) Lounsbury, 1994.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-9

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 5

Acreage of historical setting 225

Quadrangle name Nanjemoy

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 52, Grid 4, Parcel 100.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Currey/Historic Preservation Planner

organization Charles County Planner

date 1/25/01

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town LaPlata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-9

Friendship Livestock Houses

name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

Chain of title:

See J. Richard Rivoire's, "A Trace History Of the Nanjemoy Nature Reserve Charles County, Maryland", March 1993.

Included in

Otter, Edward. *Archaeological Reconnaissance at Nanjemoy Nature Reserve, Charles County, MD*. Prepared for Charles County Department of Public Works, LaPlata. Sponsored by Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-9

Section 9 Page 1

Friendship Livestock Houses

name of property

Charles County, Maryland

county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Circuit Court Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*.
LaPlata, MD. Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

Otter, Edward. *Archaeological Reconnaissance at Nanjemoy Nature Reserve, Charles County, MD*. Prepared for Charles County Department of Public Works, LaPlata. Sponsored by Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD. (Includes J. Richard Rivoire's Tract History) October 1993.

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

Date: 12/2001

North arrow:



Name: FRIENDSHIP LIVESTOCK HOUSES

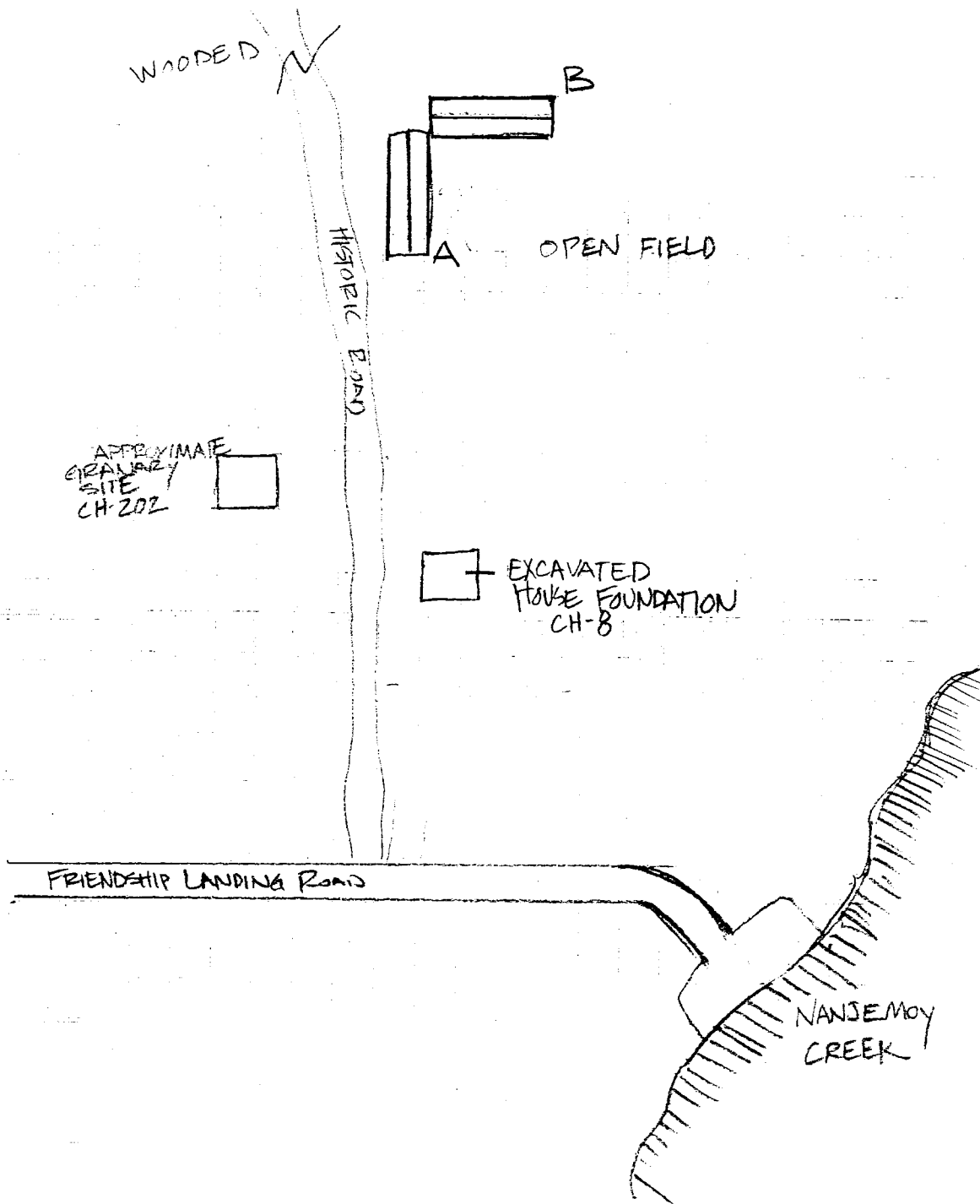
Address: NORTH SIDE FRIENDSHIP LNDG RD

CH - 9

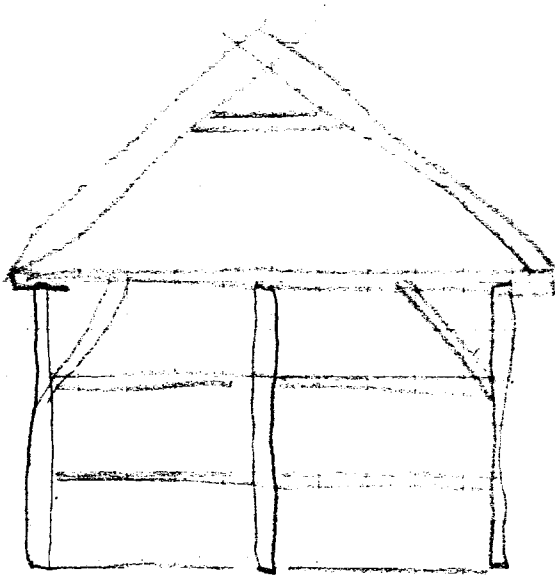
Charles County, Maryland

NANJEMOY ☒ Vicinity

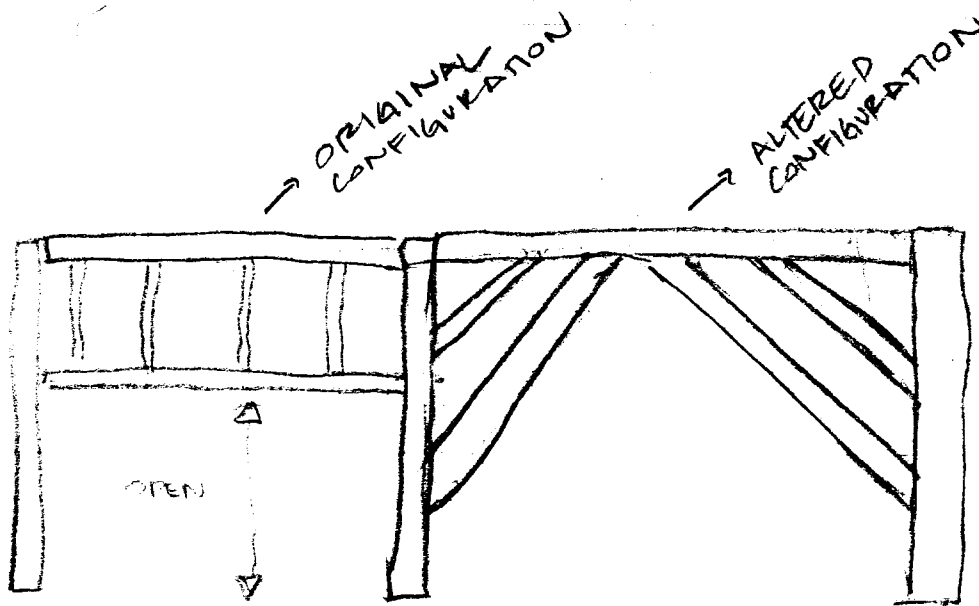
CH-9



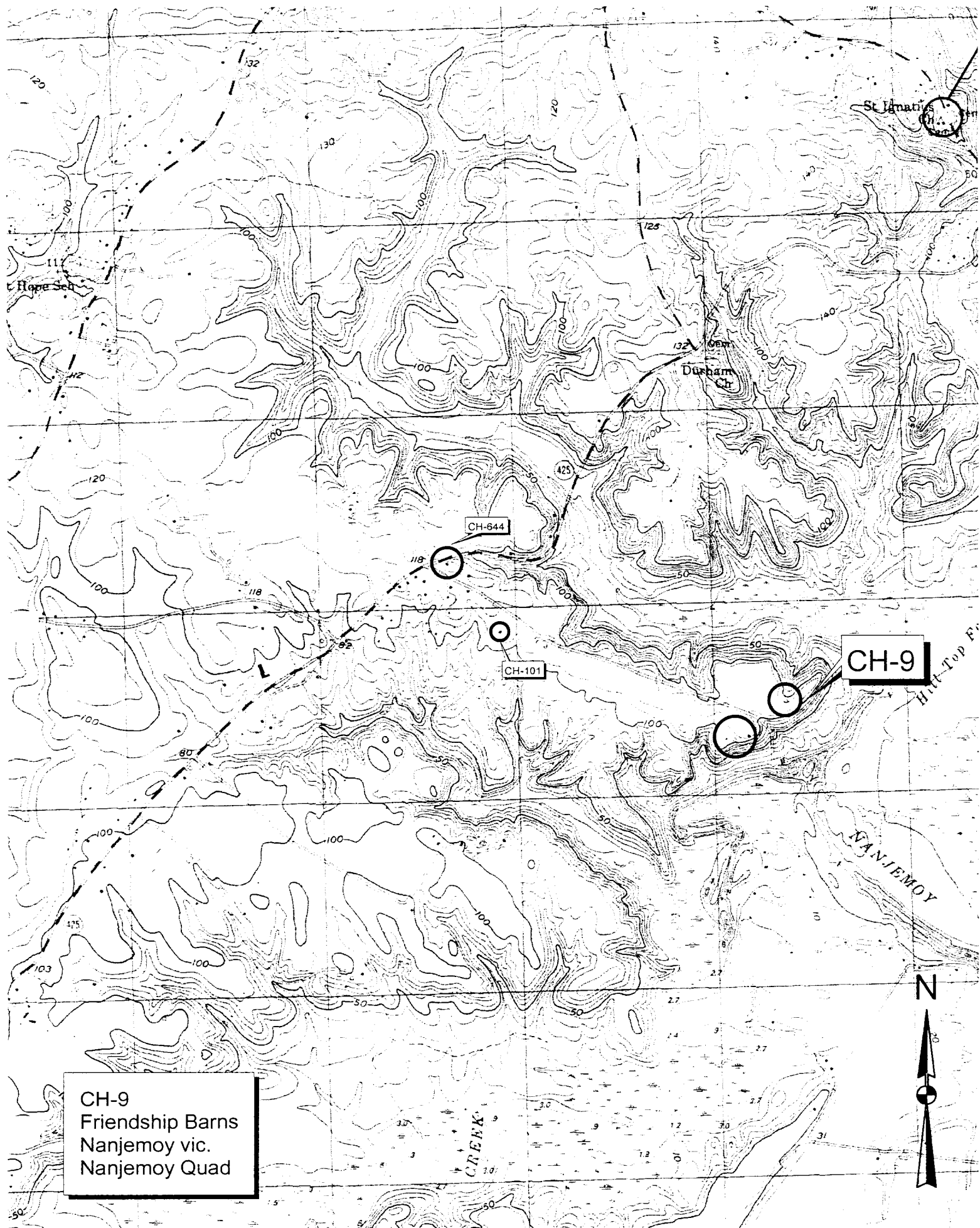
CH-9
FRIENDSHIP LIVESTOCK
HOUSES
NANTENBOY VIC.
12/2001



STRUCTURE A
SOUTH GABLE WALL



STRUCTURE A SOUTHEAST
EAVE WALL



CH-9
Friendship Barns
Nanjemoy vic.
Nanjemoy Quad



CH-9

FRIENDSHIP LIVESTOCK BARN

NANJEMOY VIL

1/2001

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

LOOKING NORTH

1 OF 3



CH-9

FRIENDSHIP LIVESTOCK BARN

NANJEMOY LLC

1/2001

A. GIZREY

MD SHPO

A. TILTED FALSE PLATE 20F3



CH-9

NANTJEMOY VIC.

11/2001

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

A. DOB, PLATE, ATTIC JOIST & RAFTER

3 OF 3